

## Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for Tuesday December 14, 2010

Our notice as published in the HC Democrat and the Courier News satisfies the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. This notice is also posted on the Township website, and a copy is filed with the Municipal Clerk.

Opened meeting at 7:05 PM.

Roll call:

Present: Michele McBride, Don Church, Josh Boyle, Steve Hurford, Sandy Stiger, Chuck La Tournous, Chuck Neary (7:15), Bill Harclerode.

Also present were Kathy Hale (NJWSA), Nick Zripko (DEP), Steve Souza (Princeton Hydro), Matt Severino and Frank Mazza (Union Township Committee). Two township residents were also present.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the November 2010 meeting: motion to accept was moved, seconded and approved.

### Sidney Brook:

Review of Sidney Brook Watershed Protection Plan and Stream Assessment: Dr. Stephen Souza, Princeton Hydro

Dr. Souza presented a Powerpoint overview of the Sidney Brook Project and the key elements of proposed the Watershed Protection Plan. He also answered questions from attendees.

Bill Harclerode noted that he had received no comments from the public during the 30 day review period. However an email was received on December 14 2010 from residents Kevin and Karen Sferra, 36 Cooks Cross Road, Pittstown (Block 27

Lot 3.02) asking that their property be included in mitigation measures. Their property is prone to flooding and erosion. This request was discussed and it was agreed that this property should be considered for mitigation pending availability of future grants. A copy of their letter was given to Princeton Hydro.

Resident M. Bancroft asked for a copy of the Sidney Brook Watershed Protection Plan draft, on CD. Bill gave her a copy after the meeting.

Township Resident Brett Bragin, an aquatic biologist, arrived after Princeton Hydro had left the meeting. Mr. Bragin had read the entire plan and presented four pages of handwritten comments and questions. The comments and questions were mostly technical and editorial in nature and did not question the validity of the study or its conclusion. A copy of his comments was mailed to Princeton Hydro for inclusion in the final report. UTEC thanked Mr. Bragin for his very thorough and professional review.

Princeton Hydro will incorporate all comments received to date and finish the Watershed Protection Plan report.

### Old Business

Trails- Finn Road Park and Milligan Farms. For Finn Road, Brian can provide updated trail mile markers. John will prepare a design for the signs. UT Road Crew will prepare the signs. Milligan Farm trail was not discussed.

Education forum on global warming: will follow up in January. Possible joint effort with Sierra Club. (Bill and Don)

Hunterdon County Planning and Design Awards: Nomination of Stewardship Committee was already submitted but the deadline has since been extended to Jan 15. We will update the

application in January to include Dr. Furlong for his efforts in rebuilding the historic barn.

Curbside leaf removal (John): Nothing further to report.

Fall UTEC newsletter (Chuck La T): The newsletter is coming along fine.

Native Planting (tabled motion to recommend an ordinance): Another option, to recommend a "Do Not Plant" list, was discussed but no final decision was made.

### New Business

UTEC welcomed new UTEC (alternate) member Don Church!

### Correspondence

A No Cost Time Extension for the Sidney Brook project was granted by DEP, to June 30, 2011.

E-mail from township residents Kevin and Karen Sferra (see Sidney Brook report above).

### Chair's Report

Kathy Corcoran will be stepping down from UTEC, and will continue on Planning Board.

Michele McBride will also be stepping down from UTEC, to serve on Township Committee.

### Reports of Subcommittees

Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): No new news.

Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)

Hoffman Park house: Since no acceptable responses were found to the Hoffman House RFP, UTC plans to demolish this building. A specification for the salvage and demolition is in process.

Hoffman Park south barn: Most of these structures will be included in the salvage/demolition plans. Two buildings will be retained for storage and/or possible park programs, pending County review.

Hoffman Park north barns: TBD

Milligan Farms house: This building and its lot were auctioned off for \$75,000, plus a 10% buyer's premium, by Max Spann Associates on December 10, 2010 .

#### Planning Board Report (Bill)

Pilot would like to increase its allowable water use., subject to Planning Board approval.

Pattensburg Quarry: Chuck La Tournous will follow up on this when Michelle gets a copy of the existing agreement with Union Township. The quarry also resides partly in Bethlehem Twp.

Road Noise (Bill Harclerode): Efforts will renew in January.

#### Communication / Education (Michele Mc Bride, Chuck La Tournous):

Fall newsletter- on schedule to be issued by the end of December, 2010.

#### Sidney Brook Project 319h Grant (Chuck Neary, Bill Harclerode, Michele McBride):

-A "no cost" time extension request to June 2011 was approved by DEP

-Status of riparian restoration demonstration project at Milligan property w/NJWSA (Skip): Rick Anthes and Skip Jonas are preparing the wetlands permit for riparian restoration project which has been budgeted to be funded

from the Sidney Brook project as a demonstration project.

UTC Highlands Committee (Kathy Corcoran, Bill Harclerode): No meetings have been held.

Sustainable NJ Certification (C. La Tournous):

Union Township is now certified as a sustainable Jersey community!! We are the first township in Hunterdon County to reach this milestone. Chuck was congratulated for his efforts, and he thanked his Green Team members for their work.

Environmental Easement Database (Michele): To be discussed next year. Grant money may be available to help pay for monitoring for compliance with environmental easements throughout the township.

Hearing of Citizens:

No further comments from citizens.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to close meeting was seconded and approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Bill Harclerode